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Department of State 355

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 PM-01 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-07 /091 W
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R 271400Z FEB 86
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1453
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA

EXCISE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1439

E.O.O.12065: GDS 2/26/86 (DUBOSE R) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: ELECTION MANEUVERINGS

REF: KINGSTON 1229

1. C- ENTIRE TEXT

2. BEGIN SUMMARY, BOTH PARTIES HAVE BEGUN THEIR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS RATHER CAUTIOUSLY. THE ISSUES ARE NOT YET TOO CLEAR, BUT SO FAR THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA ALBOR PARTY (JLP) IS MOSTLY RUNNING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENTRECORD. THE PEOPLEAJS NATIONAL PARTY (NP) IS RUNNING AGAINT THE IMF, BUT CAUTIOUSLY THE TIMING OF THE ELECTION IS THE ISSUE OF THE MOMENT. MANY BELIEVE MANLEY IS GOING TO TRY TO HAVE AN ELECTION IN JULY. THOUGH THE OPPOSITION STRONGLY PREFERS OCTOBER END SUMMARY.
3. SINCE MANLEY'S FEBRUARY 3 ANNOUNCET OF A UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION BOTH PARTIES HAVE BEEN MARSHALLING THEIR FORCES AND GEETING OFF INITIAL SALVOES. THE TIMING OF THE ELECTION IS PERHAPS THE BIGGEST ISSUE AT THE MOMENT. IT SUBTENOS STRATEGY MANLEY'S GOOD FAITH (SUSPECT BY MANY, PARTICUPLARLY THE OPPOSITION) AND THE ELECTION PROCESSES (I.E. A FAIR ELECTION OR NOT)

4. ON FEBRUARY 21 MMANLEY SENT A MUCH PUBLICIZED LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION PROFESSOR MILLS. ASKING HIM HOW SOON THE ELECTORAL MACHINERY WOULD BE IN PLACE HE SAID IN THE LETTER THAT THE MACHINERY WOULDL "PRESUMABLY BE EXPECTED TO INCLUOE AOQUATE CONTROL OVER THE PROBLEMS OF MULTIPLE VOTING AND IMPERSANATION". HE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE IMF PROGR.", OF SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL IMPORTANCE AT THIS TIME". DEPENDS UPON THE TIMING OF THE ELECTIONS

5. A HIGH PLACED PNP OFFICIAL EXPLAINED TO US THE REAONS FOR MANLEY'S LETTER IT IS AN UNDERSTANDABLE ATTEMPT TO MARSHALL ALL THE ADVANTEGES OF TIMING FOR THE RULING PEOPLE NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) MILLS AS WE KNWO (REFTEL) AND AS PRESUABLY MANLEY KNOWS, CANNOT PUT A GOOD SYSTEM INTO PLACE MUCH BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. ACCORDING TO [ ] THE LETTER S INTENDED TO "SMOKE OUT" OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA. MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONS [ ] FGURE THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF THIS COUNTRY CANNOT JOLD TOGETHER UNTIL DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR, THUS, AFTER MILLS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED NO CHANCE OF ELECTION MACHINER IN PLACE EVEN BY OCTOBER MANLEY WILL PUT IT TO SEAGA THAT THE ELECION MUST BE HELD SOONER EVEN WITH THE OLD ELECTORAL ROLLS. SEAGA, [ ] CANNOT REFISE TO GO ALONG THE CHOICE EITHER PERHAPS DOWN OR A ELEARLY ELECION.

6. THE KINGSTON RUMOR FACTORY AND SEVERAL KEY JLP LEADERS ARE NOW PREDICITING A JULY ELECTION. THE REASONING IS THAT MANLEY WANTS AN EECTION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND HIS LETER TO MILLS PRESAGES A DECISION TO GO FOR JULY. [ ] FIRMLY DENIED THAT THE PARTY HAS ANY PLANS FOR AN ELECTION BEFORE OCTOBER. HE ASERTED THAT THE PNP WOULD HAVE MORE ADVANTAGE WITH A LITTLE MORE TIME, CONSIDERING ITS SUPERIOR ORGANIZING ABILITY. ALSO, HE FIGURES THAT THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT IMPORTS COMING IN BY SEPTEMBER USING THE LIBYAN VENEZUELAN AND THE IMF LOANS TO EASE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

7. THE PNP AND JLP HAVE INAUGURATED THEIR CAMPAINGS WITH MASS RALLIES IN KINGSTON. THE PNP WAS FIRST OFF THE MARK ON FEBRUARY 7. THE CROWD WAS ABOUT 25,000 THOUSAND. MANLEY GAVE A BRAVURA PERFORMANCE. HE MOSTELY REPEATED POINTS HE HAD MADE IN HIS FEBRUARY 3 RADIO TV SPEECH (KINGSTON 0877) BUT WITH EMPHASIS ON THE SO CALLED $50 MILLION GAP BETWEEN WHAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD AFFORD TO CUT FROM THE BUDGET AND WHAT THE IMG WAS SUPPOSEDLY DEMONADING. HE RHETORICALLY ASKED THE CROWD IF THEY WANTED HIM TO DENY FOOD TO THERI CHILDRN (THE ANSWER WAS NO) MANLEY AVOIDED MENTIONING THE ACONYM "IMF" DIRECTLY BUT THE MAIN THRUST OF THE SPEECH WAS TO PORTRAY THE IMF AS A KIND OF HEARTLESS VILLIAN. HE ALSO TALKED A LOT ABOUT THE WEALTHY "POOBAHS" WHO ARE OPPRESSING THE PEOPLE. DURING MANLEY'S SPEECH THERE WERE SOME GUN SHOTS AT THE EDGE OF THE CROWD. AND A N INCIPIENT PANIC. BUT MANLEY CLAMED THINGS MASTERFULLY. AFTER THE RALLY THERE WAS MORE SCATTERED VIOLENCE, UT IT WAS MINIMAL BY USUAL JAMICAN STANDARDS.

8. THE JLP LAUNCHED ITS CAMPAIGN THE FOLLOWING WEEK, FEBRARY 15, AT A SIMILAR RALLY. IT DREW ABOUT 50,000 ALMOST ALL FROM THE KINGSTON AREA (THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO BUS SUPPORTERS FROM AROUND THE ISLAND AS HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST) SEAGA GAVA A GOOD ROUSING SPEECH THOUGH HS IS NOT IN THE SAME LEAGUE WITH MANLEY THE SUBSTANCE OF SEAGA SPEECH WAS REPORTED IN KINGSTON 1367 HE WAS MOSTLY CONTENT TO ATTACK THE PNP GVERNMENT RECORD AND RAISE THE CUBAN BOGEY.
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 6/25/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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